

**Colts Neck Recreation Committee
Minutes – June 3, 2015**

**COLTS NECK RECREATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES: June 3, 2015**

Attendees: Jim Valenti, Frank Baker, Judy Laufer, Rich Rehm, Phil Maida, Paul Wild, John Rocco

Excused Absence: A.J. Garito, Brian McNally, Joe Mancino, Chris Adams

Township Liaison Absent: Jarrett Engel

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Valenti at 7:00 p.m.

The Sunshine Statement was read.

The Committee approved the minutes from May 6, 2015.

The Treasurer's Report was read.

Also in attendance was Ronnie Sullivan representing the Colts Neck Trail Riders Club.

Mr. Hennessy communicated a message from Mr. Engel, Township Liaison, stating thank you for a great Memorial Day Parade.

Old Business

Critique of Memorial Day Parade, Ceremony and Firehouse – Mr. Baker commented there was an increase of people at the gravesite and along the route this year. It was a great idea giving T-shirts to Veterans. Mr. Maida stated more children participated in the bicycle decorating contest this year, most were grades K – 3. A 4th grader was the oldest participant. He also shared, Perkins donated several \$25 gift certificates as awards for the contest. Mr. Maida thought the gesture was very generous. Perkins was one of the many store fronts that displayed the bicycle decorating contest poster. Mr. Wild asked what was the criteria for the bicycle contest. It was agreed the electronic message boards were a big help to promote the parade. Posters for the bicycle contest were sent to the Board of Education for posting on the virtual back pack. Mr. Wild thought the parade went well. He had a few suggestions next year the parade should have more music and provide a canopy for the Veteran's to sit under at the gravesite. He also stated timed speeches of 2-3 minutes should be kept next year. All agreed Pastor Chris's speech was great! Mr. Valenti stated the parade was great and agreed with Mr. Wild to add more music next year. Mr. Maida suggested adding marching bands. Ms. Laufer suggested Mr. Hennessy book bands now for 2016, before they become unavailable. Mr. Maida noted it may be tough, as some marching bands are booked for the same parades year after year. Mr. Baker suggested maybe getting a clown to march along the route. Mr. Hennessy noted Mr. Valenti did a great job speaking at the podium. Ms. Laufer noted the breakfast held at St. Mary's Church, it seemed too many town events in one day. She explained a woman was looking for a ride back to Town Hall after the gravesite ceremony, she assumed a ride would be provided by the Township. Mr. Rehm stated people left towards the end of the parade as it was hot. Mr. Rehm was not in the parade, his son and daughter drove his two tractors. He was very proud to have them in the parade. It was agreed by all to have more children participating in the parade, thus having more parents and grandparents along the route. Mr. Valenti stated the golf carts were gone when he arrived at the parade. Mr. Hennessy stated there were six carts, two went to the church. Mr. Valenti noted one cart was used by the Business Association. Mr. Maida noticed a big gap in the beginning of the parade with the antique cars, maybe next year they should be relocated in the line of march next year. Next year Mr. Hennessy plans to get a loud speaker to ask participants to move along in order to keep the parade going. Mr. Rocco joined the meeting 7:45 pm and provided comments on the Memorial Day Parade. He felt the speeches at the gravesite were long.

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Stewards of the Park – Ms. Laufer stated she found a few pieces of litter at Bucks Mill Park after the Pet Fair. She found multiple trees down at Freer Preserve. The Mountain Laurel is growing everywhere which is a good thing. Ms. Laufer was with Ms. Axelrod who is concerned with a vine growing below the stream. Mr. Rehm agreed the vine growth is decreasing the sunlight for other plants to grow. Someone would need to cut it and use herbicide to try to eliminate it.

Mr. Valenti saw several buses with visitors at Big Brook Preserve, and no garbage was left behind. The Preserve is kept very clean. Mr. Wild asked if the Town Hall park is 1.1 miles. Mr. Hennessy stated the inner trail is 1.1 and the outer trail is 1.5. He will double check. Mr. Wild added there is no pad on the basketball net at Conover Road, which may be a liability issued. Mr. Hennessy explained that is school property not the Township.

New Business

Colts Neck Summer Camps sponsored by Colts Neck Recreation scheduled for 2015 are Soccer, Basketball, Baseball, Fencing, Girls Lacrosse and Field Hockey. An art program is also scheduled as well as a percussion band camp. All but fencing are associated with Colts Neck High School. He did note, this year the High School passed a rule, there will be no camp fees for campers in grades 8 – 12 attending the Colts Neck High School.

Summer Day Camp

Approximately 21 Counselors are returning, with 18 new applicants. Over 20 applicants are under 16 years old, hoping to be hired as a Counselor in Training. There are approximately 4-6 vacancies in both categories. Mr. Baker asked if the camp fee was increased. Mr. Hennessy replied yes, by \$10.00. Mr. Baker asked if that increase covers the cost for the Counselors. Mr. Hennessy replied yes. He reminded the committee with declining base of children in town, the number of staff hired may decrease. Camp orientation will be held Friday, June 26. The staff will also spend time setting up their camps at Cedar Drive and Conover Road Primary schools. A dress code for all staff has been added to the camp manual. And a personal safety manual is also reviewed during orientation.

Maintenance

Bucks Mill # 2 baseball field received a dual pitcher's mound from Jersey Elite. Last Saturday, 4 men from Jersey Elite completed the project, costing approximately \$3K. Mr. Hennessy noted in August, Jersey Elite is hosting a college showcase with 20-25 colleges participating at Bucks Mill.

Physical Infrastructure

The new well at Community Center will house a 5 horse power motor to hopefully expand irrigation at Bucks Mill. Mr. Hennessy noted the Kifco unit in storage at Five Point will be moved over to Bucks Mill to provide irrigation.

Capital Grant

Mr. Hennessy stated he will be speaking to Interim Township Administration, Tom Antus about applying for a Monmouth County Grant this year. There are many projects on the list, from playgrounds to expanding ball fields. September 19 is the deadline to apply for a Monmouth County Grant.

Upcoming Events

The Community Band will be playing outside at Thompson Park tomorrow night. This is their 13th year and the musical diversity is remarkable, Mr. Hennessy stated. Saturday we will hold the annual Fishing Derby, June 13 & 14 the 4th Annual Battle of Monmouth Lacrosse tournament at Bucks Mill Park.

August 20-23 the Colts Neck Fair will take place at Bucks Mill Park. Mr. Rocco commented the rides are critical for attendance. As a parent with children, the fair needs the rides. He asked if there will be fireworks at the fair this year. Mr. Hennessy replied, yes on Thursday. Mr. Rocco noted it must be a major undertaking to put the fair together. Ms. Laufer heard talk of fireworks on July 4. Mr. Hennessy replied no fireworks on July 4 this year.

Comments from the Public

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Ms. Sullivan stated the Trail Riders provided several horses and a mini donkey for the parade. The Hunter Pace was held at Huber Woods with over fifty participants. She spoke to Allison who works at Huber Woods and found out the horse ring is being used. In terms of maintenance, the ring is dragged twice a week. June is Horse Month, they will be participating in a Show and Tell with mini horses. They will be having a clean-up at Bucks Mill Park on October 1.

Senior Citizen Club Report

Ms. Laufer stated they have 270 club members. In July they'll be going to the Bucks County Playhouse in Pennsylvania. They are planning on a Caribbean cruise, 100% being paid for by club members, not the Township.

Mr. Baker stated in the past the committee took a hiatus in July and August from meeting, does the committee want to continue taking a hiatus in July and August. The committee agreed to suspend meetings for July and August. The next meeting will be held September 2.

With no other matters to discuss, Mr. Valenti adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm. Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Byrne, Secretary

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Suggestions for 2016 Memorial Day Parade

1. Add more music/bands
2. Book bands now -for 2016
3. Provide a canopy for the Seniors to sit under at the gravesite
4. Promote more participation by children
5. Less town events (i.e. breakfast at St. Mary's same day)
6. Relocate antique cars in line of march (i.e. gap in parade)
7. Keep speeches at gravesite 2-3 minutes or shorter
8. Continue use of electronic message boards